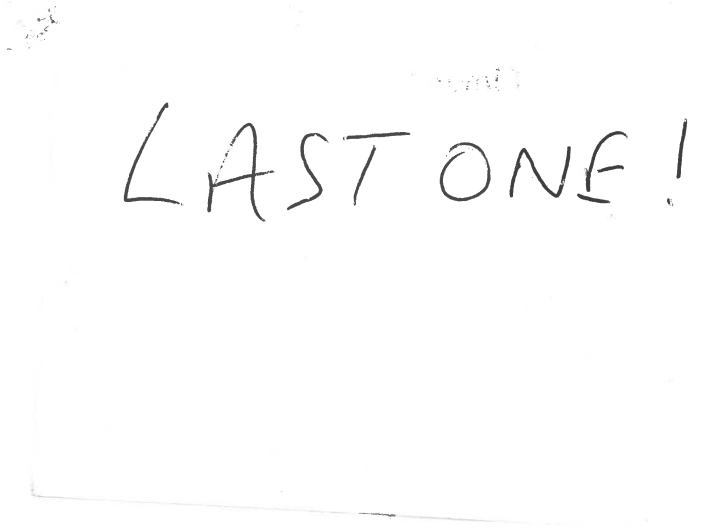
ANNA FRANK'S NOVEL

THE 'DIARY' IS A FRAUD

SIMON SHEPPARD



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The 'Diary' is a Fraud

Simon Sheppard

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The Controversy

Whatever the *Diary of Anne Frank* is, it is not a diary. A diary, as normally understood, is a daily account of events in the life of the writer. Various points may be stretched: the occasional entry may be missed, and written the following day; if the diary were to be published, no-one would quibble about the correction of spelling and punctuation; nor would it be regarded as dishonest if a hastily-written injudicious passage, penned in the heat of the moment, was expunged. But there can be no doubt that the common notion of a diary is of a daily, contemporaneous journal documenting the life and thoughts of an individual. This is something the *Anne Frank Diary* most certainly is not.

Several have had doubts about the *Diary*, an attitude well-summarized by Butz (*Hoax*, p. 37):

> The question of the authenticity of the diary is not considered important enough to examine here; I will only remark that I have looked it over and don't believe it. For example, already on page 2 one is reading an essay on why a 13 year-old girl would start a diary, and then page 3 gives a short history of the Frank family and then quickly reviews the specific anti-Jewish measures that followed the German occupation in 1940. The rest of the book is in the same historical spirit.

Some, most notably Faurisson, have gone further to claim that the *Diary* is a forgery, and such claims are likely to attract a charge of 'anti-Semitism'. The crux of any controversy about the *Anne Frank Diary* is the race of its author and the group of refugees which are its main subjects.

All of the eight Jews who went into hiding in Prinsengracht 263 on or after 6 July 1942 were émigrés from Germany who had been declared stateless: the Franks were from Frankfurt, the van Pels family was from Osnabrück and Pfeffer was from Giessen. Like many German and other European Jews, they had emigrated; Germany's Jewish population had fallen from 560,000 in 1933 until by the start of the war in 1939 only 200,000 remained. Holland, which had remained neutral during WWI, was believed to be safe from the Nazis and its invasion on 10 May 1940 was completely unexpected by the Dutch.

The Franks were quite wealthy; the family had employed servants

and owned a bank dealing in foreign currency and stocks. This explains the relatively large number of photographs in existence. In Amsterdam, Otto Frank was the owner of the Opekta and Pentacon companies employing around ten people. The companies traded in pectin, used for making jam, herbs and similar products.

One method of avoiding the race controversy is to quote Annelies Marie Frank's own attitudes and perceptions of the people she knew. This has the advantage of avoiding a charge of 'racism,' and is compatible with the objective of documenting the *Diary*, but is seriously flawed in other ways. For a start AMF's attitude to her Jewishness was, as we shall see, inconsistent. Moreover we would be stretching credulity to its extreme to expect a pubescent girl to provide answers to such weighty problems, although of course it is always possible for the truth to be stated by accident. When a great deal is written, with widely differing viewpoints, it is inevitable that some will be true. Readers hoping to find consistency in the Frank accounts will be disappointed; so much is written that one can almost make of it whatever one wishes.

Regardless of their entry dates, the following passages were all written within a few weeks of each other. We start with AMF's entry for 9 April 1944 (Va):

> *We can never become only Netherlanders or only English, or of any other nation, we will always remain Jews* alongside, we must remain Jews, *but we want to remain so too.*

Throughout this text, parts which appear in the published *Diary* are shown in italics (Table 1). The Frank family did observe some Jewish rituals such as Chanuka and lighting a candle on the eve of the Sabbath. Just a few lines later however, in the same entry, we have:

> now my first desire after the war is, make me Dutch!
> *I love the Dutch, I love* our *country, I love the language and I want to work here. And if I have to write to the queen* herself, *I will not give up until I have reached my target!*

'Mr. Bunjes is sacked from the Cineac because one evening he cut a film a little bit short, to catch the last tram, but they only did it just because he is quarter-Jew, but doesn't count as one' (30 Sept 42, Va, omitted)

Then there is a retrospective account of an occasion when AMF was in trouble at school for talking too much. She was instructed to write an essay on the theme and 'finding a conclusive proof of the necessity of talking, that was the trick' (21 June 42, Vb):

> *as arguments I had given, that talking is feminine, and that I would do my very best to temper it a little bit, but I should never ever be cured, for my mother talked as much as I, if not more and* there is little to do *about inherited properties.*

But in the entry of 22 May 1944 (Va) it is claimed that Jews who conform to their negative stereotype are treated unfairly:

> *O it is sad, so* awfully *sad, that again for the umpteenth time the old truth is confirmed: What one Christian does he must answer for himself, what one Jew does,* falls *back on all Jews.*

Families like the Franks may be perceived as innocent bystanders but this is not how the National Socialists saw them. To quote a certain Revisionist classic (Verrall's *D6MRD?*, p. 3):

> Rightly or wrongly, the Germany of Adolf Hitler considered the Jews to be a disloyal and avaricious element within the national community, as well as a force of decadence in Germany's cultural life. This was held to be particularly unhealthy since, during the Weimar period, the Jews had risen to a position of remarkable strength and influence in the nation, particularly in law, finance and the mass media, even though they constituted only one per cent of the population.

In response to the German people recovering control of their country, 'Judea' (organized Jewry) declared war on Germany. This was widely reported, particularly by the London *Daily Express* on 24 March 1933.

Table 1. The Scheme Used in this Analysis of the *Diary*

Va	Version a, the first version of the text
Vb	Version b, the second, revised version written in 1944
italics	Appears similarly in the 1952 US and 1958 UK *Diaries*
omitted	Omitted from the 1952 US and 1958 UK *Diaries*
<u>underline</u>	Underlined in the original manuscripts

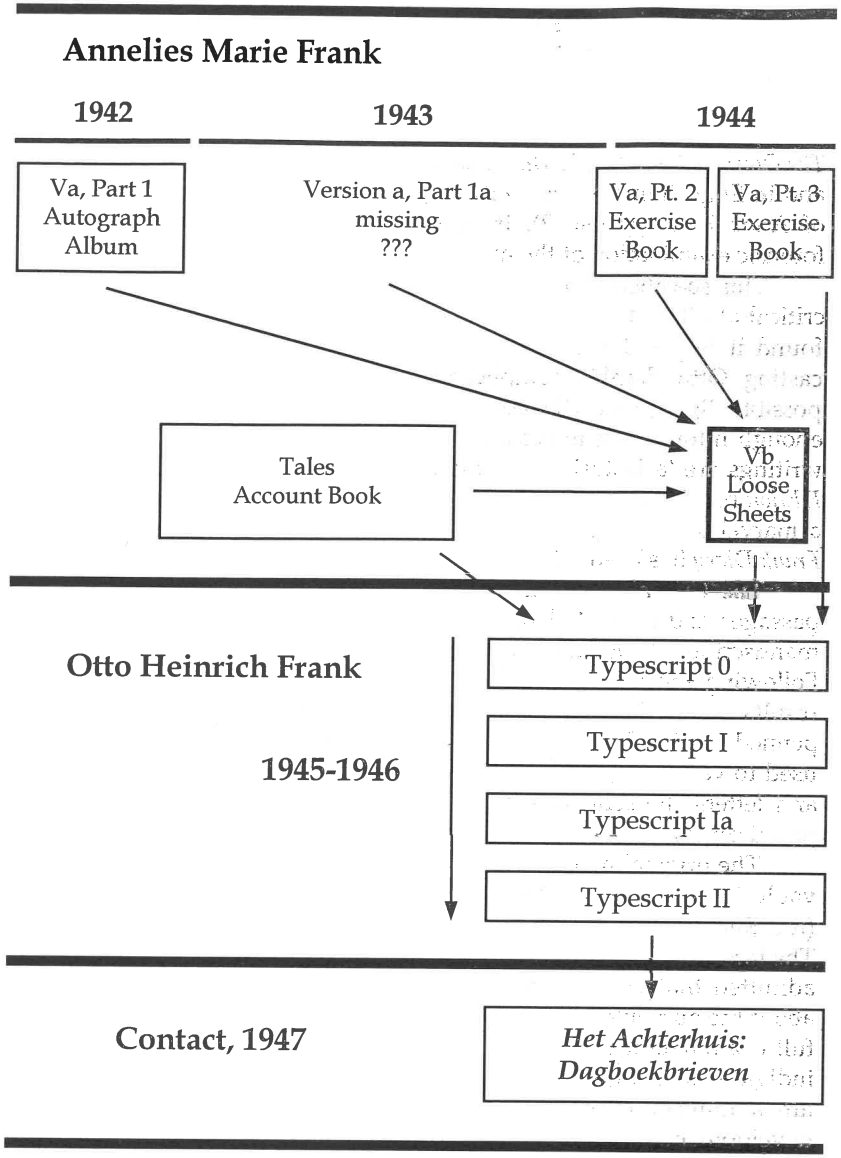


Figure 1. When and how the *Diary* was produced. Not shown is that some portions of Version a were added into Typescript I

The Manuscripts

The Diary of Anne Frank: The Critical Edition, published in Dutch in 1986 and in English in 1989, is a 719-page compilation of the extant writings of Anna Frank (Table 2). It also includes a detailed summary of a forensic examination of the manuscripts.

This so-called *Critical Edition* is, like the *Diary*, misnamed. It is not critical at all, indeed it tends to sycophancy. Its authors seem to have found it impossible to say anything bad about the *Diary*, as well as casting Otto Frank's complicated business dealings in the kindest possible light. Nevertheless, being academics, they have provided enough information to complete the true picture. The claim that these writings are 'a historical document' is laughable (*CE* p. 167, *Definitive Edition* p. viii). What is of historical interest, and which will certainly be a marvel to future generations, is how such a production as the *Anne Frank Diary* has been tolerated.

The *Critical Edition* is of value because, save for a few censored passages and separated pages, it documents every piece of the *Diary* manuscripts. Thus the original form of the *Diary* is made evident. Following the publication of the complete manuscripts and forensic results it cannot seriously be doubted that the *Diary* was originally penned by AMF. Samples of her handwriting dating from 1936 were used to verify the handwriting in the manuscripts. This included cards and letters she sent from Holland to Germany stamped by the Nazi postal censor.

The original manuscripts of the *Diary* were last heard of in a bank vault, having been left to the Dutch Institute for War Documentation (the Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie, RIOD) by Otto Frank. The forensic examination which ensued was certainly overdue, and it is admitted that Otto Frank did not go out of his way to settle doubts about the authenticity of the *Diary* (*CE* p. 166). His reticence to permit a full examination of the manuscripts was ostensibly to protect certain individuals about whom personal comments had been made, and there are a number of passages in which AMF details her early sexual development.

The manuscripts consist of five parts (Figure 1). Version a, Parts 1-3, are the closest there is to a real diary: this is denoted here, as in the

Table 2. The Manuscripts

	PART	FORM	PAGES	DATES
Version a	1	Autograph Album	122	12 June 42 - 5 Dec 42
	1a	Unknown - lost		
	2	Exercise Book	203	22 Dec 43 - 17 Apr 44
	3	Exercise Book	128	17 Apr 44 - 1 Aug 44
Version b	Vb	Loose Sheets	324	Dated 20 May 42 to 29 Mar 44 Written 20 May 44 to 1 Aug 44
Tales	T	Account Book *(Verhaaltjesboek)*		10 Dec 42 - 9 Aug 43

Critical Edition, as 'Version a.' Version b, written onto the Loose Sheets, is the revision of Version a which was undertaken by AMF between about 20 May 1944 and 1 August 1944. Version b was the basis for all editions of the *Diary* published before 1986.

In Version a, 6 December 1942 to 21 December 1943 is missing. It is implausible that AMF did not write during this time, indeed some entries for this period exist by virtue of having been entered into the wrong exercise book. At least one part of the manuscripts has been lost. That is, if we are to suppose that Version a is a diary then it does not exist at all for the period 6 December 1942 to 21 December 1943.

Entries written on successive pages but with non-successive dates appear throughout the manuscripts. Duplicate entries appear bearing different dates. Many dates were changed and several entries were pasted into the exercise books subsequently by AMF. A number of later corrections and alterations appearing on the manuscript pages can be attributed to Otto Frank.

'I could easily write on every page "Pim is a darling!!!! Mummy isn't!!!!"' (28 Sept 42, Va, omitted)

The People Involved

When AMF's first name, Annelies, is truncated to 'Anne,' in Dutch or German, the final 'e' is pronounced. Therefore the proper translation of her name to English is Anna. Confirmation is found in the passage of 14 June 1942 (Va, omitted): 'Hanneli and Sanne were previously my two best friends, and anyone who saw us together always said there go Anne, Hanne and Sanne.' This is spoken as 'Anna, Hanna and Sanna.'

AMF was 13 when the Autograph Album was started and 15 when her writing stopped. We may ask, as did she, 'Am I then really so bad-mannered, cocky, headstrong, pushy, stupid, lazy etc., etc., as they above say?' (28 Sept 42, Vb). She admitted to being 'a little bundle of backchat' (21 July 44, Va; 1 Aug 44, Va) and her loquacious, then verbose, inclinations are obvious: she writes of 'my ceaseless chatter' (21 Sept 42, Vb) referring to herself in the third person as 'your parakeet other half' (28 Sept 42, Va, omitted) and 'Miss Quack-quack-quack' (29 Sept 42, Vb).

Both Anna and her elder sister Margot needed glasses; by 11 July 1943 Anna had become very short-sighted. From two normally omitted entries we learn that AMF could not do gymnastics at school or strenuous exercises 'because my arms and legs go out of joint' (14 June 42, Va; 12 Jan 44, Va).

Anna was evidently 'Daddy's girl' while Margot tended to side with her mother. Margot is odd in the text because so little is said of her: practically the only concrete things we learn is that she is clever at school (5 July 42, Vb, omitted) and that her ambition is to become a midwife in Palestine (8 May 44). Mrs. Frank was hurt by AMF's lack of affection for her. Otto Frank had been a German Reserve lieutenant during WWI, a fact that was significant at his arrest.

The other family in hiding was the van Pels. Hermann van Pels was a sausage maker, or at least knowledgeable in the herbs and spices used in their preparation, and this was his association with Otto Frank. Mrs. van Pels was an individual towards whom AMF was vitriolic: 'Mrs. v.P. is well-known as being awfully pushy, selfish, sly, calculating and is content with nothing. Vanity and coquetry can also be added' (29 July 43, Vb). Her flirting with Otto Frank is a possible motivation for this animosity: 'Mrs. v. Pels and I have continual quarrels, because she always wants to stroke Daddy's hair, and it makes me rather jealous' (30 Sept 42, Va). Later Mrs. van Pels flirts with Pfeffer and is described as 'a snivelling and foolish specimen' (16 June 44, Va). 'What

Table 3. Pseudonyms Assigned by AMF

REAL NAME	BIRTHDATE	NICKNAME(S)	PSEUDONYM
Annelies Marie Frank	12 Jun 1929		Robin
Margot Betti Frank	16 Feb 1926		Robin
Mr. Otto Heinrich Frank	12 May 1889	Pim	Robin
Mrs. Edith Frank-Holländer		Mansa	Robin
Peter A. van Pels	8 Nov 1926	Petel	Alfred van Daan
Mr. Hermann van Pels	31 Mar 1898	Putti	Hans van Daan
Mrs. Auguste van Pels	9 Sept 1900	Mevrouw, Mrs. Beverbruck (derog.), Gusti, Kerli	Petronelle van Daan
Freidrich Pfeffer	30 Apr 1889	Fritz	Albert Dussel
Hermine Gies	1909	Miep	van Santen
Mr. Jan Gies			Henk
Elisabeth Voskuijl	1920	Bep, Elli	
Mr. Voskuijl			Vossen
Johannes Kleiman	17 Aug 1896		Simon Koophuis
Victor Gustav Kugler	6 Jun 1900		Kraler
Jacqueline van Maarsen		Jopie	de Waal
Helmuth Silberberg		Hello	
Peter Schiff			Peter Wessel
Charlotte Kaletta		Lotje	"Mrs. Pfeffer"

an idiot of a person!!!!' says AMF (21 Sept 42, Va, omitted). AMF had an adolescent affair with Peter van Pels which was probably consummated at Westerbork. Earlier Peter, who was 2½ years AMF's senior, had been described as having 'an awfully strong inferiority complex' and 'always has a tinge of dishonesty about him' (16 Feb 44, Va).

Pfeffer was a dentist. Although initially described in glowing terms he too became a target for derision by AMF. He 'invents everything out of nowhere' (2 May 43, Va, omitted) and 'answers every reproach and accusation with splendid promises, when in reality not one is kept' (17. Nov 43, Vb, omitted). According to AMF, Pfeffer's favourite spot is the lavatory (9 Aug 43, Vb).

Regarding the supporting cast, i.e. Otto Frank's employees and their associates who maintained the eight in hiding, the key passage is dated July 1942 (Va, omitted, page 51 of the Autograph Album):

> we are not allowed to go out and we can only receive visits from Miep Gies-Santroschits, Jan Gies her husband, Bep Voskuyl, Mr. Voskuyl, Mr. Kugler, Mr. Kleymann, and Mrs. Kleyman but she doesn't come, because she thinks it's too dangerous.

Hermine Gies was probably the most active. 'Miep' was described as being 'just like a little pack-mule, she lugs so much' (11 July 43, Vb). She had come from Vienna with the maiden name of Santrouschitz. Her husband, Jan Gies, may have been the sanest of the collaborators: later, following a host of speculative scenarios, he answers 'Ik geloof er niets van!' ('I believe none of it!' 3 Feb 44, Va; see also 27 Mar 44, Va). There was a second Henk (8 Mar 44, Va, omitted; 10 Mar 44, Va, omitted) who was a friend of Elisabeth Voskuijl's. Elisabeth Voskuijl deputized for Hermine Gies fetching and carrying (29 Sept 43, Vb).

Kugler, an Austrian-Hungarian by birth, became acting head of Opekta-Pentacon while the Franks were in hiding upstairs. Kleiman was Otto Frank's bookkeeper and 'our cheerer-upper' (1 Apr 43, Vb). His disorder seems to have not so much a sick stomach as acute 'Hemorites' (30 Sept 42, Va, omitted). Even though Kleiman's sickness is often mentioned, it is Mr. Voskuijl who is really sick: in the entry of 15 June 1943 (Vb) we learn that he has stomach cancer.

Van Maaren was a warehouseman and appears to have been a pilferer, although the commentator in the *Critical Edition* may have taken particular exception to him. He was accused of being a traitor yet refused to accept charity from the occupying Germans. According to

THIS IS A TRUE STORY. ONLY THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED

'One day Kerli says "I'll have myself baptized later" and another day it's "I always want to go to Jerusalem because I only feel at home among Jews"!' (2 May 43, Va, omitted)

the text (25 Apr 44, Va, omitted) he was also Jew-baiting. Levinsohn was the Jewish chemist who worked at the Opekta-Pentacon premises a couple of days a week. He didn't know about the eight hiding in the rooms above and survived the war. Van Hoeve and 'Mr. M' were among the suppliers of vegetables to the eight, not a trivial role since both knew of their existence and rationing was in force (4 Mar 43, Vb, omitted; 10 Mar 44, Va, omitted; 29 Mar 44, Va, omitted; 9 Apr 44, Va).

Among the incidental characters, at the beginning of the Autograph Album we have Helmuth Silberberg, a 16-year old covert Zionist (30 June 42, Va), arranging clandestine meetings with AMF. Peter Schiff was AMF's 'first love.' Jacqueline van Maarsen was supposed to have been AMF's best friend, although she seems to have become a better friend after they had become separated; before the Franks went into hiding AMF wrote that 'the more I know her the less I like her' (19 June 42, Va, omitted).

Charlotte Kaletta was the blonde who took Pfeffer as a live-in partner before he joined the group in hiding in Prinsengracht 263. She was not told where Pfeffer was living, with letters and parcels being carried by Hermine Gies. Otto Frank was probably the expurgator of the passage 'He lives with a much younger, nice Christian woman, to whom he is probably not married, but that doesn't matter.' Kaletta is an early example of woman delivering the ultimate insult to the males of her own race by taking a partner from another. Kaletta retroactively married (!) Pfeffer in 1953, even though he died in 1944 (*CE* p. 16).

Many of the people in the published *Diary* have pseudonyms

Table 4. Important Words

DUTCH	LITERAL TRANSLATION	ENGLISH
achterhuis	behind-house	rear annexe
boek		book
brieven		letters
dagboek	day book	diary
roman		novel
verhaal		story

'We talked about service girls, that you must call them the "household help," and that will certainly be most appropriate after the war' (27 Sept 42, Va)

taken from a list drawn up by AMF (*CE* p. 60). The nicknames and pseudonyms used are detailed in Table 3. Moortje, Mouschi, Boche and Tommy were cats. Here is an interesting passage (12 July 42, Va, omitted) and in the last sentence we see that AMF was old enough to make an important distinction (Table 4). In the *Critical Edition* this passage is rendered as 'you could fill a whole diary just saying how fantastic the Dutch are' but the word used is 'aanleggen,' to lay out, construct or contrive.

> they sometimes speak about Moortje and I can't bear that, for that's my softest and weakest point. I miss Moortje every moment of the day and no-one knows how much I think of her; always when I think of her I get tears in my eyes. Moortje is so sweet and I love her so much, I dream up all sorts of plans in which she comes back again because I think she is so sweet and I can trust her with everything.
>
> Father says you could lay out [construct, contrive] a diary, so tremendous the Dutch are, he means a book of course, but I'll stop again now, goodbye.

'Bep had half a nervous outburst this week, so much was she sent out, 10 x per day she picks shopping up, always being asked to cram in something else to fetch quick, that she must go once more or that she has done something wrong! If you then think that she must finish off her office work downstairs, that Kleiman is sick, Miep is staying at home with a cold, and that she herself has a sprained ankle, love worries and a grumbling father at home, then you can well imagine that she has her hands in her hair. We comforted her and said, that if she should energetically maintain a few times that she has no time, then the little shopping lists will automatically get shorter' (29 Sept 43, Vb)

Who – and What – was Kitty Franken?

AMF variously addressed her letters to her diary, Conny, Emmy, Jacqueline, Jetty, Kitty, Lou, Marianne, Phienny and Pop (Table 5). In Dutch, 'je' or 'tje' is the diminutive; thus 'Jan-Jantje' is equivalent to 'John-Johnny.' Assuming then that the variant spellings and diminutives are simply variations on the same name, we have 10 separate addressees. Except for 'Jacqueline,' none of these names correspond to real people. The remainder derive from a series of story books for young girls by Cissy van Marxfeldt (*CE* p. 223). Several entries refer to these books. In the popular *Diary* all the letters are addressed to Kitty.

AMF's so-called diaries served the roles of confidante and confessional, substituting for the circle of friends from which she had been separated. This is apparent from the following entry (21 Sept 42, Va, omitted):

> I have a mind to correspond with somebody, and so I shall do just that in future with my diary. Thus I write now in letter-form which actually amounts to the same thing.
> Sweet Jettje, (I shall just say,)
> My sweet friend, both in the future as well as now I shall have a lot to tell you.

On 25 September 1942 AMF wrote a 'farewell letter' to Jacqueline van Maarsen, who certainly was a real person, but this is followed by a less tangible missive to Jackie (presumably Jacqueline). These 'letters' were written entirely in line with the others, and not even on a separate page, so cannot have been intended to be sent. Neither do they appear in the published *Diary*. Thus we have the situation where the only letter (s) to real people in the 'diary' are expunged from it.

The Version a entry for 27 September 1942 asks the imaginary Conny to 'come as quickly as possible.'

An example of AMF's early explorations with names can be found in one of the many entries dated 28 September 1942 which intersperse the first 100 pages of the Autograph Album. The entry, on page 46, begins:

> In general, to the whole club,

> Dear Kitty,
> When I am afraid at night, I go and lie by Daddy in bed, he finds it altogether the best. One night the shooting lasted so long, that I rummaged about with the blankets, and went to lie on the ground by his bed in the way of a dog. 'Bye Kitty Franken and friend François from Anne Frank.

(Va, omitted.) This is followed by shorter notes to Pop, Phien, Marjan, Conny, Lou, Jetje and Emmy in which many other names are used.

Later however, in another normally omitted entry (7 Aug 43, Vb), Kitty has become more concrete:

> Sweet Kitty,
> An interruption in the Achterhuis-sketches. A few weeks ago I began to write a story, something that was completely invented and that gave me such pleasure that my pen-children are piling up.
> Because I have promised to give you a faithful report of all my experiences in unembellished form, you must also just judge whether small children may perhaps take pleasure in my tales.
> Kaatje
> Kaatje is our girl-neighbour and if I look through the window outside, which I can if the weather is fine, Kaatje is seen playing in the garden.
> Kaatje has a wine-red velvety dress for Sundays and a little cotton one for the week, flaxen hair, with tiny braids and bright blue eyes...
> At school she must stand in the corner sometimes because again she can't hold her mouth.

Note that the story was 'completely invented.' The inference of course is that the remainder are partly invented. 'Kaatje' directly translates to

Table 5. Addressees of the Letters in the Autograph Album

NAME (OCCURRENCES) DATE OF FIRST USE
Conny (6) 27 Sept 42; **diary** (1) 28 Sept 42; **Emmy** (3) 28 Sept 42; **Jacqueline** (1) 25 Sept 42; **Jackie** (1) 25 Sept 42; **Jet** (1) 16 Oct 42; **Jetje** (1) 21 Sept 42; **Jettje** (1) 21 Sept 42; **Jetty** (1) 13 Nov 42; **Kit** (1) 28 Sept 42; **Kitty** (7) 22 Sept 42; **Lou** (2) 28 Sept 42; **Loutje** (1) 28 Sept 42; **Marjan** (1) 28 Sept 42; **Marianne** (4) 26 Sept 42; **Phien** (4) 28 Sept 42; **Phienny** (1) 26 Oct 42; **Pien** (2) 27 Sept 42; **Pop** (6) 25 Sept 42; **Poppie** (1) 22 Oct 42

'Kitty' (a 'kat' is a cat and a 'katje' is a kitten). AMF used English words in her writing, though often incorrectly, and she must have been aware that 'Kaatje' is directly equivalent to 'Kitty.' Thus in this passage AMF drops into fantasy in the middle of a letter to her fantasy! We can also take it from this passage that Kitty/Kaatje was not Jewish: she has blonde hair, blue eyes and her Sabbath is on Sunday.

Does being in trouble at school for talking too much remind the reader of someone? Could Kaatje have been AMF's alter ego, her ideal self? Note finally that this is Version b, and thus was written or at least rewritten in 1944. Whether it is fact or fiction, it is considered.

As well as substituting for a normal circle of friends, the letters were also a vehicle for AMF's pubescent concerns and daydreams. Typical entries are 'I have a procession of adorers, casting their eyes at me' (20 June 42, Vb) and 'Countless adorers and lovable young men have begged for my favours' (12 Mar 44, Va, omitted).

Numerous comedy sketches have been based on the scenario of a pen-friend making an unexpected visit. The pen-friend has been a vehicle for a flight of fancy, and led to believe that their correspondent is dashingly handsome, or lives in a spacious mansion, or some other imaginary scene has been painted, and panic ensues when the pen-friend is to visit and discover that it is not so. In AMF's case, there was not even a chance of a visit from her 'pen-children.' Reality was a constraint that had been shed. The letters were written as an indulgence, for her own amusement, and were not intended to be sent or read by others (Va, omitted):

> I have had a lot of support from you until now, and also from our beloved club to which I now write regularly, I think this way of keeping my diary is much nicer and now I can hardly wait for the hour when I have time to write in you
>
> 28 Sept. 1942.
> AnneFrank.

'"Errands to do, Kaatje!" mother calls. Kaatje stops up her ears quick, to be able to honestly later say, that she didn't hear her mother; Kaatje awfully hates running errands. But to her it's also really not worth lying to escape an errand, Kaatje doesn't lie, you see that from her blue peepers' (7 Aug 43, Vb, omitted)

'No-one ever asked my opinion or attached any value to it' (11 July 43, Vb)

The Matter of the Ballpoint Pen

A common criticism of the *Diary* is that the original manuscript contains writing in ballpoint ink, and that ballpoint pens were not available until after AMF's death. This is a false but persistent myth. In the forensic summary in the *Critical Edition* H. J. J. Hardy reports that the only ballpoint writing was found on two loose scraps of paper included among the loose sheets' (*CE* p. 160). These were slips of paper inserted into the folders by someone else. According to the *Critical Edition* the writings of AMF are not in ballpoint.

The Real Start of the 'Diary'

The beginning of the Autograph Album consisted of:

1. A photograph on the inside cover, now missing;
2. Five pages 'stuck in by Anne with brown adhesive tape at the beginning' (*CE* p. 264) containing:

a) An entry dated 30 September 1942 in which 'Mr. Levinsohn now calls himself Mijnheer Muller on the telephone because he is not allowed to telephone Christians';

b) An entry dated 1 October 1942 beginning 'Bokkie Pepertje Sokkie Tokkie Pepertje – Pokkie Pepertje Pokkie';

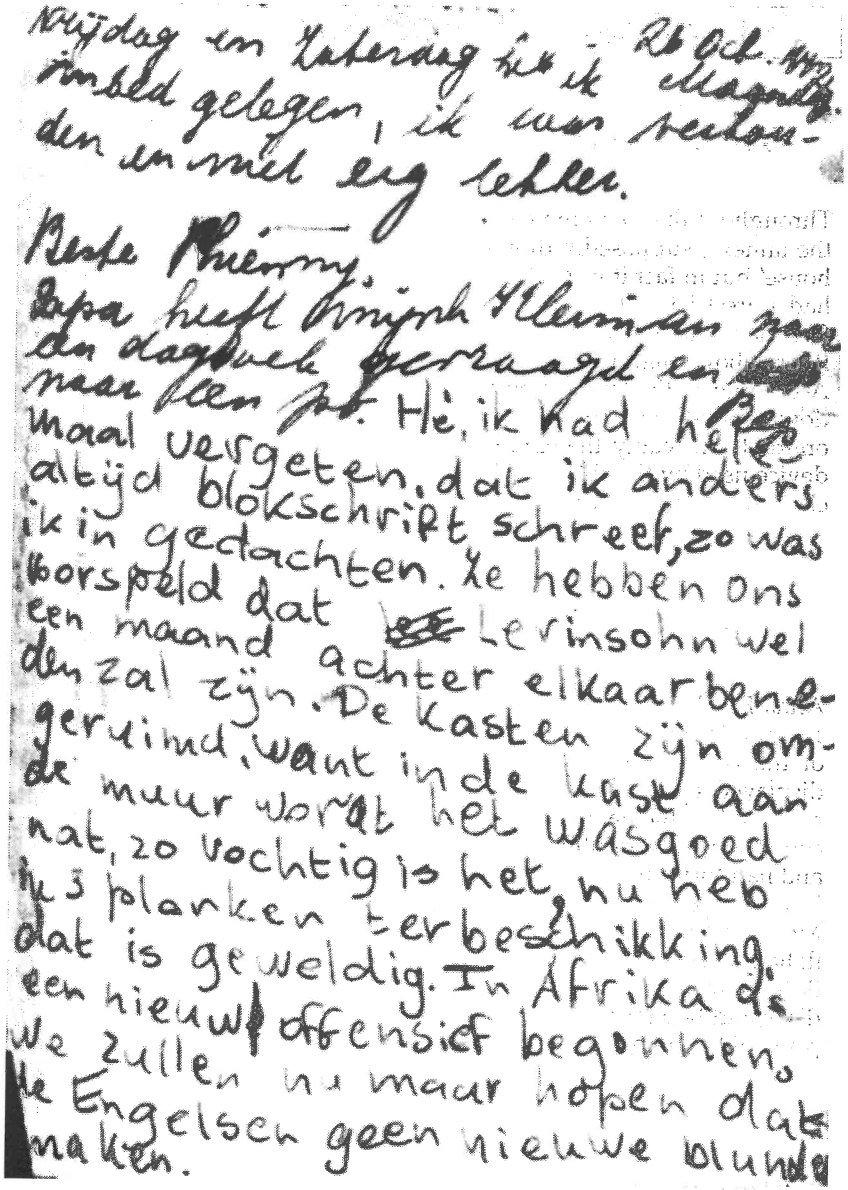
3. The first page of the Autograph Album proper has:

a) One entry dated 12 June 1942, 'I hope I shall be able to confide everything to you...';

b) Two entries dated 28 September 1942;

c) One compete entry and the start of another entry dated 14 June 1942, documenting AMF's birthday two days previously and describing her life and friends at the Jewish Secondary School.

'Sam Solomon is just a brat from the slums, a bit of riffraff' (16 June 42, Va, omitted)



Beste Phienny.
Papa heeft Mijnh Kleiman naar
een dagboek gevraagd en
naar een pot. Hè, ik had heel
maal vergeten, dat ik anders
altijd blokschrift schreef, zo was
ik in gedachten. We hebben ons
laten voorspeld dat Levinsohn wel
een maand achter elkaar benedenzal zijn. De kasten zijn omgeruimd, want in de kast aan
de muur voor het wasgoed
nat, zo vochtig is het, nu heb
we 3 planken verbeschikking,
dat is geweldig. In Afrika de
een nieuwe offensief begonnen,
we zullen nu maar hopen dat
de Engelsen geen nieuwe bluns
maken.

Figure 2. Page 96b of the Autograph Album, pasted in

'Stirring up trouble, that's fun' (9 Aug 43, Vb)

The Need for Silence Within the Annexe

Throughout the *Diary* there are references to the need for silence within the annexe, supposedly due to a fear of discovery. AMF refers to 'the house' but in fact it was a factory and warehouse to which they usually had unrestricted access during lunchtimes and evenings. There were five floors in total: the ground floor factory/warehouse area, three floors above that and the rear attic, but most plans only show three. According to the text a vacuum cleaner was in daily use until it broke down (presumably permanently this time) on 3 November 1943 (Vb, omitted). In reality the emphasis on silence was likely to have been a device used by the elders of the household to suppress AMF's incessant chatter.

The Handprinting

Anna Frank's practice of alternating between a flowing (cursive) script and child-like single characters (handprinting), upon which some critics of the *Diary* have laid great emphasis, is said to be a characteristic displayed by about one in six of her peer group (*CE* p. 105). In the manuscripts the handprinting is mostly in the earlier sections but AMF continued to intermittently revert to it until June 1944. Cursive writing and handprinting are sometimes combined on the same page, as shown in Figure 2. The start of the letter reads 'Beste Phienny, Papa heeft Mijnheer Kleiman naar een dagboek gevraagd en Bep naar een po. Hè, ik had helemaal vergeten dat ik anders altyd blokschrift schreef, zo was ik in gedachten.' ('Dear Phienny, Daddy has asked Mr. Kleiman for a diary and Bep for a potty. Eh, I completely forgot that I used to write in print all the time, I was so deep in thought' 26 Oct 42, Va, omitted).

'Daddy is grumbling again, and threatens to take my diary away' (4 Oct 42, Va, omitted)

Taller Tales

AMF wrote 'stories' but it is evident that they were based on her own limited experiences and incidents which had been recounted to her by others. The passage about her wanting to become a famous writer has often been quoted, but another revelation about the nature of the *Diary* is contained in the remainder of the entry, which was omitted (11 May 44, Va):

> *Now about something else: You've known for a long time that my dearest wish is that I shall become a journalist one day and later a famous writer. Whether I shall ever bring these inclinations towards greatness* (madness!) *to realization must still be seen, but up to now I still have lots of subjects for it. In any case I want to publish a book entitled 'het Achterhuis' after the war, whether I shall succeed remains still the question, but my diary will* serve for that purpose. Cady's life must also be finished, this is how I've thought to continue the story, that after Cady is cured in the sanitorium she returns home and continues to correspond with Hans. That is 1941, and then she comes to the discovery quick that Hans inclines to the NSB'ers side and because Cady is vehemently sympathetic with the lot of the Jews and with her friend Marianne, there is an estrangement between them... It isn't sentimental nonsense for the story of Daddy's life is worked into it.

The NSB was the largest of the Dutch National Socialist organizations. This passage is a good example of AMF's technique of combining scenes from her own or another's experiences, inspiration from her immediate environment and invented romantic fantasy. By this stage in the evolution of the *Diary* (11 May 44, and assuming the entry date is to be believed) AMF was just about to start writing Version b.

Eleven *Diary* entries are particularly indistinguishable from fiction because they began as stories, as listed in Table 6. Eight stories were dated 1942 or 1943 and initially written into the Account Book, then rewritten, entirely in line with the other text, when AMF was writing

'Dear Kitty, I have resigned you in the bedpan for a month long, but there is also real not so much news, to tell you something pleasant every day' (14 Aug 42, Vb)

'I can tie up everything when I write, my thoughts, my ideals and my fantasies' (5 Apr 44, Va)

Version b onto the Loose Sheets in 1944. A further four stories were lifted from the Account Book and incorporated into Typescript I by Otto Frank in 1945. These accounts are specific instances of presenting fiction as reality.

Each of the tales is dated, so the only difference between the stories and the letters is that the latter are addressed to an imaginary person instead of having a title.

AMF remarked that 'Eva's dream is my best fairy tale and the queer thing about it is, that I real don't know where it comes from' (5 Apr 44, Va). Her pitiful attempts at pure fiction can be seen in editions of *Tales from the House Behind* (*Tales from the Secret Annexe*). There can be little doubt that these stories would never have seen the light of day but for the fame of the *Diary*.

Table 6. Taller Tales

DATED	IN	TITLE	IN *DIARY*?
10 Dec 42	T+Vb	'Worstdag'	YES
10 Dec 42	T+Vb	'De tandarts'	YES
25 Mar 43	T+Vb	'Is er ingebroken?'	YES
13 July 43	T	'Het beste Tafeltje'	YES
29 July 43	T+Vb	'Anne in theorie'	YES
4 Aug 43	T+Vb	'De avond en de nacht in het Achterhuis'	YES
5 Aug 43	T+Vb	'Schaftuurtjes'	YES
6 Aug 43	T	'De plicht v.d. dag, in de gemeenschap: Aardappelschillen!'	YES at 18 Aug 43
6 Aug 43	T	'De Vrijheid in het Achterhuis'	YES at 20 Aug 43
6 Aug 43	T	'Wenn die Uhr halb neune slägt.....'	YES at 23 Aug 43
7 Aug 43	T+Vb	'Kaatje'	OMITTED
9 Aug 43	T+Vb	'Het Achterhuis van 8 aan tafel'	YES

The True Nature of the 'Diary'

The Second World War was almost over when AMF stated to write what is now known as her *Diary*. Hitherto she had kept a mixture of letters to imaginary friends, accounts and stories. AMF was inspired to revise her writings by the words of Bolkestein, the Dutch Minister of Education, Art and Science in exile, in a BBC Radio broadcast of 28 March 1944. This is detailed in the entry for 29 March 1944 (Va):

> Yesterday evening minister Bolesteyn spoke on the Oranje-radio saying that after the war a collection of diaries and letters should be kept. Of course they all made a rush directly to my diary.
>
> *Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a* novel *of the* Achterhuis, *the title alone would be enough to make people think, that it was a detective-*novel.

In several entries, the original word describing her book is a 'roman' (a novel or story, Table 4). On 20 May 1944 (Va, omitted) the book's start is recorded:

> Finally after a great many reflections I have started with my 'Achterhuis,' in my head it is as finished as finished can be, although in reality it will be much less quick than that, if it ever comes off at all.

The following passage is dated 20 June 1942 and appears at the beginning of the *Diary*. It derives from the revised Version b which was the basis of the published *Diary*. The passage exemplifies its true nature:

> *It's for someone like me a very strange* sensation to write *a diary. Not only because I have never* written *before, but because it seems to me that later neither I, nor anyone else will place any importance on the unbosomings of a thirteen year-old schoolgirl*

– because it was actually written within a few days of 20 May 1944, by which time AMF was almost 15. No passage exists in Version a which is even remotely similar. Many other entries for this period are also new in Version b. Written between 2 and 26 months after their stated entry dates, these 'diary entries' could be reality, a distortion of reality or complete fiction. Unlike a real diary, AMF alternated between writing

several entries per day and writing nothing at all for weeks at a time. Passages which were obvious fantasy are omitted from the published *Diary* and these were only revealed with the publication of some of the original text in the *Critical Edition*.

Sometimes the changes made when Version b was compiled were so minor that it amounted to little more than a rewriting, while other passages were changed extensively. Gerrold van der Stroom, writing in the *Critical Edition*, stated that 'she changed, rearranged, sometimes combined entries of various dates, expanded and abbreviated' (p. 61). H. J. J. Hardy of the Dutch Forensic Science Laboratory reported that:

> Because changes with handwriting characteristics with time in Part 3 are paralleled by changes in the loose sheets, the latter, which were written at the same time, can be dated more closely. It appears that the writer worked more intensely on the loose sheets, particularly during the period between July 15 and August 1, 1944. During that period 162 pages were completed, or about 11 pages a day.

(*CE* p. 159.) This was the reconstruction of the text by AMF: her letters to imaginary friends, her 'Achterhuis-sketches,' her novel 'Het Achterhuis.'

H. J. J. Hardy is the one commentator in the *Critical Edition* who has come the closest to revealing the true nature of the *Diary*. On the same page we have that:

> Two passages in part 2 (dated March 29, 1944) and part 3 (dated May 20, 1944) point to the existence of these loose sheets,

'I've managed to catch up at school with private lessons and know enough French and German to keep up, anyway I know a good bit of Swiss German as well. I'm in the second class of the [Swiss] lyceum with nice boys and girls where I soon ferreted out Kitty amongst them a nice kid of 14 we've become great friends I am good friends with the boys as well.

Bernd is keenly teaching me figure-skating and I am going to be his partner because the partner happens to be away' (undated, omitted, page 93b of the Autograph Album, pasted in)

inasmuch as their writer mentions that she is writing a novel. This 'rewriting of the diary' is reflected in a more remote tone and less obvious emotional involvement. It also explains the relatively large number of corrections and sentence reconstructions, particularly during the initial phase.

Hardy fails to mention explicitly, but surely cannot have been unaware of the fact, that many Version b entries have no origin in Version a at all.

Throughout his life Otto Frank insisted that the *Diary* contained the essence ('das Wesentliche') of his daughter's writing, and it can just as validly be argued that the essence of the charge of forgery against the *Diary* is fair. Firstly, it consists of letters to imaginary people; secondly, its entries were written or rewritten up to 26 months after their stated dates; thirdly because it was so exceptionally treated subsequently. The fraudulent nature of the *Diary* results from an accumulation of distortions begun by AMF herself.

In summary, the *Diary of Anne Frank,* covering the period 12 June 1942 to 1 August 1944, was actually written between 20 May 1944 and 1 August 1944. It consists of an extensive revision of AMF's earlier letters to her imaginary friends and was described by her as a novel. It is a haphazard mixture of reality and wishful thinking in which dates were changed at whim and entries were subsequently revised.

For how a *real* diary is treated see Arthur Bryant's classic *Triumph in the West,* based on Alanbrooke's diary. This is a diary of true historical importance: Alanbrooke was chief military advisor to Churchill and attended the wartime conferences with Stalin. In the book, Alanbrooke's contemporaneous diary entries are in double-quotes and his subsequent remarks (perspectives with hindsight, omissions etc.) are in single-quotes. Such a scheme would be impossible with the Frank 'diary.' A large part, 6 December 1942 to 21 December 1943, is missing and the remainder is an unreliable mixture of narrative and fantasy.

In any meaningful sense of the word the *Anne Frank Diary* is fraudulent. If a paper is printed and called a banknote it is a fraud; if an entry is incorrectly dated in an accounts ledger for profit it is a fraud; if a book is written, pre-dated and called a diary it is a fraud.

'Sometimes I used to pretend for a good six months that I was an orphan' (12 Jan 44, Vb)

Abnormal Behaviour Within (and Without) the Annexe

The commentators in the *Critical Edition* repeatedly remark on the fluency of much of the manuscript writing: it was 'penned with great ease,' 'penned with fluency' and so forth. It seems that much of the time AMF was writing quickly and uncritically. Only slightly less objectively we can surmise that she was writing the first thing that came into her head. For Annelies Marie Frank the boundary between reality and fantasy was blurred, particularly near the end of the period in hiding.

AMF was almost certainly suffering from some form of mental derangement as a consequence of her extended confinement within Prinsengracht 263, comparable with the behaviour of animals in zoos. By 17 March 1944 Kitty has become her 'Allerliefste Schat' ('Most sweetest' or 'Most beloved Darling'). Practically every entry in Version a is studiously signed Anne, Anne Frank, Anne M. Frank or some other variant but in the entry of 23 March 1944 the letter is signed 'Mary Anne Frank.' On 6 April 1944 (Va) AMF's dialogue with Kitty became two-way: 'Sweet Kitty, you have asked me, what my hobbies and interests are and therefore I want to answer you.'

On 9 April 1944 (Va, word omitted) AMF inexplicably wrote that fifteen people were hiding in the premises, not eight:

> *Steps in the house, private office, kitchen, then..... our staircase, no-one breathed audibly now,* 8 hearts thumped, *steps on our staircase then rattling of the swinging cupboard. This moment is indescribable:*
> *'Now we are lost!' I say and I saw all* fifteen *of us being carried off by the Gestapo that very night.*

This entry includes the line 'End of part one' and so may have been a story. The trouble is, the same could be said of practically every other entry in the 'diary.'

Of the following passage there is no doubt. Not only does it conflict with the supposed need for quiet, it is a striking example of aberrant behaviour (2 June 44, Va, omitted):

> I have a brand new prescription against gunfire to share: During loud pops one hastens to the nearest wooden stairs, run up and

'He [Peter van Pels] couldn't possibly feel like a Christian he says, but after the war no-one would know whether he was Christian or Jew and what his name was!' (16 Feb 44, Va)

down a few times, and make sure that you fall gently downstairs at least once. With the scratches and the din the running + falling makes, one has enough to do as well as not hearing the shooting as also not to think about it any more. The writer has certainly used this ideal recipe with success!

A large proportion of what is written is so mundane that it is unworthy of further comment: passages such as 'Title for this chapter: Ode to my fountain pen' (11 Nov 43, Vb). The essential device of the *Diary* is that people engross themselves in such *minutae*, such consummate trivia, distracted from the reality that at precisely the same moment the world was being torn apart in an unprecedented 'total war' in which over 40 million died. This too is aberrant behaviour.

The worldwide media attention given to the extra pages which resurfaced in 1998 displays the same syndrome. AMF and OHF between them discarded between half and three-quarters of the original text in their construction of the *Diary* yet five new pages were treated as if they bore the words of the Almighty Himself. A large portion of this text, which concerned Frank family relations, was printed in the Dutch daily newspaper *Het Parool* on 26 August 1998 but shortly thereafter the newspaper found itself the subject of litigation, being sued by the Anne Frank Fonds for copyright infringement. After winning and then losing on appeal the newspaper was obliged to print a front-page apology.

The irony here is that had it not been for *Het Parool* the *Diary* would probably never have been published at all.

'After Otto moved to Switzerland in 1952-3, the Gies family visited him regularly. Miep still cannot understand why, considering that Otto lived in their small apartment in Amsterdam for seven years, they were never invited to stay in Otto's spacious house in Birsfelden but always had to stay in hotels. The cost of these visits was a significant burden' Müller, *Anne Frank: The Biography* p. 281

The Valerian Pills

The family of substances prefixed *Valeriana* are obtained from dried root and other plant components and prepared as a herbal remedy for anxiety. It is a commonly available herbal sedative. Two references to it appear in the *Diary* although the second (13 June 44, Va) is incidental. The Version a entry dated 16 September 1943, below, is also a good example of the selective editing employed in the production of the *Diary*:

Mutual *relations here are getting worse all the time.* Pf. and v.P. firm friends until the next row. *At the table no-one dares to open their mouths, (except to let a mouthful of food slip in* there), *because whatever you say will either be taken badly or is misunderstood.* Mr. Voskuijl comes now and then to visit. Shame enough that it goes so awfully badly for him. He doesn't make it easier for his family either, because he walks about with the image before his eyes: what difference can it make to me, I'm going to die quick anyway! I can well imagine the mood in Voskuijl's house when I think how peevish they all are even here.

I swallow little *valerians every day against fear and depression, but that doesn't prevent my mood from being even more miserable the next day.*

A good hard *laugh would help more than 10* little *Valerians, but laughing we've almost forgotten. Sometimes I'm afraid that from having to be so serious I'll get a long face and a hanging mouth. It's not any better with the others, everyone looks with fearful anticipation towards that great* lousy obstacle, that *winter* heat is used up. *Another fact which doesn't cheer us up is that the warehouseman v.* Maaren *is becoming suspicious regarding the* rear building. It must have struck anyone, with a little bit of brains, that Miep says she's going to the laboratory, Bep to the archive, Kleiman to the Opekta storeroom and Kugler asserts that the Achterhuis belongs not to our property but is part of the neighbour's building.

'"The unbosomings of an ugly duckling," will be the title of all this nonsense; Messrs. Bolkesteyn or Gerbrandi really won't have much use for my diaries' (14 Apr 44, Va)

Private Matters

Miep Gies, in another set of unreliable memoirs (*Anne Frank Remembered*, 1987, pp. 146-147, co-authored by Alison Gold), recounts an incident when AMF was surprised at her writing, and 'it was as if I had interrupted an intimate moment in a very, very private friendship.' Gies admits in her preface (p. xii) that these incidents are only vaguely remembered, but before examining magistrate Meyer in 1959 she gave a similar account. On that same occasion Elisabeth Voskuijl reported that AMF had 'asked me again and again to get her a book with a lock' (*CE* p. 25). The actual content of the manuscripts would be undeserving of attention had not doctored versions of these immature scribblings been foisted on generations of impressionable schoolkids.

Dietlieb Felderer is an eccentric Swede who has argued that the *Diary* is not a forgery because it seems to have been written by a Jew:

> Another forceful reason why the *Anne Frank Diary* cannot be entirely dismissed as a fictitious story is its preoccupation with the anus and excrements, a trait typical of many Jews. Pornography and excretal fantasies have always fascinated them... Jewish writings have been infused with stories about the reproductive and excremental functions... Even if they were invented they nevertheless splendidly depict the anal complex of an ancient, cultural people.

A number of manuscript entries indicate that AMF's collection of letters was not intended for publication. 'Sweet diary I hope that never anyone will read you except my sweet darling husband' she wrote in one entry (28 Sept 42, Va, omitted) and in another (6 Jan 44, Va):

> Sweet Kitty,
> *Today I* must *confess* three *things to you, which will take a long time* to batter out, *but I must tell someone and I can do it best to you, because I know* definitely that you always and under all circumstances will be silent...
>
> I am not prudish, Kitty, but I really have a feeling, that when they talk here so often about exactly what directs out of the W.C., my whole body rises up in resistance against it.

In the published *Diary* she has only two things to confess and the latter part of this extract is omitted. Several weeks later – enough to conclude

'Daddy and Mummy are largely to blame for my having had to suffer so much' (25 Mar 44, Va, omitted)

that a consistently favourite topic at Prinsengracht 263 was the toilet habits of its occupants – on 17 March 1944 (Va, omitted), it is reported that 'Fathers favourite is talking about farts and the w.c.' According to AMF Pfeffer spent two hours each day in the lavatory (9 Aug 43, Vb) and by 9 April 1944 (Va) he is spending every evening in the bathroom. There are a number of other passages in the manuscripts which could be quoted in support of Felderer's thesis. Freud, who was Jewish, defined the so-called Anal Complex.

Some of the letters are so private that they would ordinarily be unworthy of publication; the following passage is among them:

> Dear Kitty,
> My vagina becomes still wider, but I could also be imagining it. When I'm on the w.c. I take a good look there and then I can see very definitely...

(10 Oct 42, Va, omitted; see also 5 Oct 42.) The oddity is not that she did it but that she wrote it down. In another notable passage AMF gave a detailed description of her genitals (24 Mar 44, Va, omitted). Psychologists will delight in the surreal passage of 3 October 1942 (Va, omitted) in which 'Eva' gives birth to a sausage. 'Oh, Eva was so ashamed of herself. And the maid thought she was sick.' The story was supposedly inspired by another book, and the entry ends:

> Funny eh. I'll part with this sweet Marianne, next time more from
>
> Anne Frank.
>
> P.S. Greetings to Jaap. I'm fond of you. You've got my drift eh?

Marianne may have been an imaginary person but she was certainly real in the private world which AMF had constructed for herself.

'Since Yesterday evening I discovered something new to have a good peer through a powerful pair of field glasses into the lighted rooms of our rear neighbours... I never knew before that neighbours could be such interesting people' (28 Nov 42, Vb)

The Gassings and Other Mysteries

It becomes clear from a thorough reading of the complete manuscripts that a number of contemporaneous events mentioned in Version b do not appear in Version a. That is, wartime events which were happening at the time AMF was writing the first draft of her letters, the closest thing there is to a diary, were not mentioned in them. Details of these events were only added when the letters were revised in 1944 for the novel 'Het Achterhuis.'

AMF must either have maintained a separate journal or had access to old newspapers or other sources when Version b was prepared. She certainly appears to have kept a separate notebook of foreign sexual words, and here also 'the letters' are specifically mentioned (28 Sept 42, Va, page 97a of the Autograph Album):

> Dear. Lou.
> How goes it with you? *Everything has upset me again this morning so I wasn't able to finish a single thing properly.* I have learned something new again brothel and cocette, I have a separate notebook for such acquisitions but it's kept in the letters, otherwise nothing special
> AnneFrank

'Everything... properly' is in the *Diary* entry for 13 January 1943 and the remainder appears dated 27 February 1943 as 'I have procured another little notebook for foreign words.'

In the Version a entry for 10 November 1942 (Table 7) AMF described Peter's birthday two days previously and the landing of Allied troops in North Africa. When it was revised in 1944 however she added comments made in a speech at the time by Churchill, changed the source of her information and further changed the entry date to the preceding day. Hence the report of Churchill's speech appears in the *Diary* dated before it was actually made.

The second example is more grave: it concerns the gassings of Jews which were being reported by the BBC from at least June 1942 (*CE* p. 273). The revised version (Table 8) has been changed almost beyond recognition. The eight in hiding were isolated, with their only information being obtained from an illegal radio and their small number of visitors. The excerpts to follow indicate that the sole source

of the gassing reports was the BBC, and Irving (1989, p. 6) attributes these to the Psychological Warfare Executive.

Another wonder is the extraordinary acquisitiveness of Jews. This is Rassinier's observation while incarcerated in the Dora concentration camp (*Ulysses*, p. 365):

> I refer to a group of Hungarian Jews whose convoy, originally bound for Auschwitz, had arrived at Dora at the end of May 1944. Of the 1,500 or so people of this convoy, a certain number were sent to satellite camps around Dora as soon as they arrived. How many remained with us I do not know; maybe they filled an entire block. Because of the racist policies of Nazism, they were to be completely isolated from the other prisoners. That block was surrounded by barbed wire. And from that protected block they went to work like everyone else, but as a separate Kommando. For them, assembly took place within the block, before their leaving for work and on their return. We envied them. Fifteen days after their arrival, if your clogs had been

Table 7. Before and After (1)

Version a, dated Tuesday, 10 November 1942	Version b, dated Monday, 9 November 1942 but written in 1944
Dear Conny,...	Sweet Kitty,...
At half past twelve we went downstairs and happened to hear on the radio that the English and American troops had landed, in Tunis, Algeria, Casablanca and Oran. That was a surprise. In the afternoon the Kleimans came and they had also heard the happy news also all on the top. In the evening Hitler delivered a speech containing nothing. On Monday we treated the office staff in honour of the birthday...	*The biggest surprise came from Mr. v.P., when at 1 o'clock he announced that the English had landed in Tunis, Algiers, Casablanca and Oran. This is the beginning of the end, everyone was saying, but Churchil, the English prime minister, who had probably heard the same* exclamation *in England,* says: 'This landing is a very great fact, but you may not think that this is the *beginning of the end.* I say very truly that it indicates *the end of the beginning.' Do you see the difference? There is certainly reason for optimism, Stalingrad, the Russian* place, *which they have already been defending for 3 months still hasn't fallen to the Germans. But to* speak of the mind of the Achterhuis...

stolen in the night, if you wanted more bread, or if you required some tobacco or something else, you only had to make a quick dash to the Jewish block in the morning between reveille and roll-call, or in the evening before lights out, and, in exchange for something else, you could get just about anything you wanted: it was a regular market. We admired them; at the gate of the camp they had been made to undress completely, and had been sent to be disinfected; they went in completely naked, their contact with the other prisoners was limited, and, all the same, they had succeeded in procuring a little of everything that could be obtained in the camp only with the greatest difficulties and at a very high price.

The same thing appears to have happened at Prinsengracht 263. Because the conversations in the annexe appear to be well-documented (and may even be amplified, for our benefit in this case) we may be provided with some explanations. The passage to follow (3 Feb 44, Va) appears in various editions of the *Diary* but there it is shorter and many subtle changes have been made. Very few of the following lines are reproduced faithfully.

The second question came this morning in connection with the occasion of all the posters that are hanging in the streets: What to do if the Germans start evacuating here?
No. 1: Go with them. Disguise ourselves as best we can.
No. 2: In no case go with them. Stay here! The Germans are in a state to drive the whole population still further back with them, until they die in Germany.
No. 3: Yes, stay here, we're still the safest here. We'll try and talk Kleiman into coming here to live with his family. We'll see what wood shavings we can still get then we can lie on the floor. Let Miep and Kleiman bring blankets here definitely now. We'll order 50 lb. of flour from Siemons, 60 lb. of grain is already in the house, ground and in good condition. Let's ask Jan for another 10 lb. of peas, we already have 70 lb. of brown beans, 10 lb. of peas and 5 lbs. of marrow peas. 50 tins of vegetables, 20 little tins of fish, 40 little tins of milk, 4 kilos of milk powder, 3 bottles of oil, 4 preserving pots of butter, 4 preserving pots of meat, 4 pots of marmalade, 60 preserving jars of fruit, 20 bottles of tomato soup, 10 lb. of rolled oats, 8 lb. of rice, and no sugar. Our stocks are relatively large; but if you think that perhaps suddenly still many more people must eat, it's real not too much. We have satisfactory coal and firewood in the house; as far as possible plenty of candles.
No. 4: Let's all sew little breast pockets, to put our money in if we need to.
No. 5: We'll make lists and pack the most essential things into rucksacks.
No. 6: If it gets that far we'll make a look-out post in the front and back loft.

'To take just one example of conditions outside Jan told us what he had eaten since Saturday. On Saturday he got 3 big carrots, Mrs. Pfeffer or he himself I don't know which cooked them with green peas and that was the meal for Saturday, Sunday and Monday. On Tuesday some marrow peas came on the table and on Wednesday the left-over carrot was cooked in a hash' (16 Mar 44, Va, omitted)

Table 8. Before and After (2)

Version a, dated 3 October 1942 (handprinted)	Version b, dated 9 October 1942 but written in 1944
Dear Marianne,...	Sweet Kitty,...
I would never want to sleep with Mr. v. Pels in the general meaning of course. This morning Miep came again to tell us that last night they took away Jews from house after house in the South. Terrible. Who knows who of our acquaintances are still here. An old lame woman sat by Miep in front of the door because she couldn't walk and so the scoundrels fetched a car, there must that poor person sit in the cold in front of the door (she wasn't allowed to go indoors) and the tremendous shoot. You can't imagine how terrible it is, I am only so glad, that we are here. Yesterday there was another dust-up and mother played up terribly...	*If it is all as* awful *as this in Holland* how then will they live *in the distant and barbarous regions, where they are* taken to? *We take it that most of them are murdered. The English radio speaks of* gassing; *perhaps that is* indeed the quickest killing method. *I am completely* out of sorts, *Miep told all these* atrocity stories so movingly, *and she likewise was just as awfully agitated. Just recently for instance an old lame Jewish woman sat in front of her door, she had to wait for the Gestapo who had gone to fetch a car to* carry her. *The poor old thing was so afraid of the hard shooting at English planes flying overhead and also of the glaring, flashing searchlights. But Miep dare not take her in, no-one would have done that. The German* masters are not sensitive with their punishments.

No. 7: Say now that we have well-stocked, but what if the gas and the electricity pack up? Then we must cook on the stove. Filter and boil our water. We'll clean out some wicker bottles now, and put water in them if it gets that far. Further we have three preserving pans and a washtub as a water reservoir.

No. 8: We'll have our Red Cross box, all winter coats, shoes, brandy and sugar brought from the Amende's as quick as possible.

No. 9: We also still have 1½ hectolitres of winter potatoes in the back spice store. That's how they go on here the whole day Daddy is planning, to give Margot and me *f* 500,– each if needs must probably among which also dollars. Mummy and he will each take *f* 1,000,–.

With the food we had the following conversation with Jan:

Gentlemen: We are afraid Jan, that the Germans, will take the whole population here with them.

Jan: That's anyhow not possible, how have they then the trains for it?

Gentlemen: Trains? Civilians will have to use foot-wagons.

J.: Of course not, you see here everything through too-dark spectacles, what would they have as their object?

G.: What has Goebels said: 'If we have to step down, we slam the doors of all the occupied territories behind us!'

J.: They have said so much already!

G.: Do you think the Germans are too fine for that, they say: If we must go down, they will go down as well.

J.: I believe none of it!

G.: It's always again the same, you don't want to see what is happening!

J.: But where have you got this from, all you do is just make supposition.

G.: We have indeed pretended it with ourselves and is it any different in Russia?

J.: That's completely different, the Jews are resigned completely outside contemplation. And in Russia you also don't know what is happening, the English and Russians like the Germans will overdo it for propaganda purposes.

G.: We don't believe that and even if we accept that it's exaggerated 100% then it's still awful enough, because it's a fact that in Poland and Russia, Millions and still more millions have been murdered and gassed.

Kitty, I'll just cease with this, spare you further details. I'm very calm and don't take any notice of all the fuss; only I would find it awfully nice and reassuring if the Kleimans came here.

This passage is rich in detail, if indeed it is related accurately. One acquisitive process, potentially valid in the general case, can immediately be isolated:

1. Speculating a scenario of the worst possible outcome;
2. Preparing for that eventuality with counter-strategies and materials;
3. Profiting from the surplus when the worst-case scenario does not materialize.

The following exchange with Mrs. van Pels is reported in the entry for 25 March 1944 (Va, omitted):

> Yesterday mevrouw talked to me about this question and also about the rice which we gave to the Kleimans:
>
> 'We've given, given and given again, but the point comes when I say: Now it is enough. If Mr. Kleiman took enough trouble he could easily come across some rice for himself, why must we then give all out from our supplies? The children and all of us here need it just as much,' says mevrouw.
>
> 'No mevrouw,' I replied 'I don't agree with you. Mr. Kleiman can perhaps come across some rice, but he has a lot of bother about it. It's not our task to criticize the people who help us, we must give them, all what we can only just miss and what they have need of. We can do without one little plate of rice in the week, we can just as well eat peas and beans!'

The group had stockpiled so much food that even Kleiman, on the outside, was asking them for it! Yet AMF reports on 22 May 1944 (Va) that they may have to 'move on again with our little bundles.' Mrs. van Pels' strategies are quite obvious: a) erroneously believing that she had already given a great deal and b) using the children (minimum age, by this time, 14½) as a pretext for her own selfishness.

Among the more subtle, there is carefully considering the timing of when requests should be made: 'Let Miep and Kleiman bring blankets here definitely now.' This implies that it had been the topic of earlier discussions.

The following entry details the effect of stigmatizing 'anti-Semitism.' We can see from this passage how beneficial a strategy it is to Jews. In 1944 Miep Gies was 35 but in the entry of 26 May 1944 (Va,

omitted) she is reported as acting like a child:

> Miep has become much nicer and warmer towards us after the talk with Daddy. But this I still haven't told you about. One afternoon Miep came to Daddy with a red face and asked him straight out if we thought that they were contaminated with anti-semitism as well. Daddy was tremendously shrocked and talked it thorough out of her head, but some of Miep's suspicion still remains. They are fetching more for us, interest themselves more in our unpleasantnesses, although we should certainly not fall to being awkward with them. O indeed what such excellent people they are!

'Anti-Semitism' is actually a nonsense term, because most Semites are not Jews and most Jews are not Semitic. Only Sephardic Jews are Semitic. Yiddish-speaking Jews, as these eight were, are Ashkenazi Jews.

A further enigma, twice alluded to in the passage of 3 February 1944, and elsewhere, is that although eight people were living in a confined space they were apparently eager for one or more of their protectors to join them. One clue may be provided in the entry of 14 Apr 44 (Va), 'There's no one here to set us a good example: everyone must try to master his own moods.' Or perhaps the eight wished to feel 'safety in numbers': the word *ghetto* originally described a Jewish quarter.

Finally there is evidence that AMF was deliberately manipulating the theme of her affair with Peter van Pels for 'Het Achterhuis.' In the Version a entry of 23 February 1944 Peter is specifically mentioned, but Version b was changed to 'someone who sees things just as I do.' Several pertinent Version a entries were omitted from Version b by AMF.

'You mustn't think that he's suffering hunger, we found bread, cheese, jam and eggs in his cupboard. It's more than scandalous that he, whom we so lovingly took in and only to save him from going under, should be filling his stomach now behind our backs and giving nothing. Indeed we've been sharing everything with him! Even awfuller we've truly found that he's just as petty-minded towards Kleiman, Voskuyl and Bep, they receive nothing from him. The oranges that Kleiman vainly asks on all sides for because they are so good for his stomach Pf. finds for his own stomach even healthier' (1 May 43, Vb, omitted)

The Fate of the Eight

The German occupation of Holland was stringent and a number of reasons have been suggested for this. First of all, the area was a potential Allied invasion site. Second, Queen Wilhelmina, the Prime Minister and most of the Dutch Government had fled to safety in London: 'Our most beloved queen, she is taking a holiday in order to be strong for her return to Holland' (11 May 44, Va). In the eyes of the Reich, Holland had been deserted by its leadership and their right to mediate for the Dutch people had been forfeited. Thirdly if, as the staff of RIOD seem to believe, 100,000 Jews living in Amsterdam were deported from there, then the population of the city at that time was around 750,000, in which case no less than 13% of the population of Holland's capital city was Jewish.

It is evident from the manuscripts that many people knew of the group in hiding. The harbouring of Jews by the Dutch during this period was commonplace; for example van Hoeve, one of the Franks' vegetable suppliers, was himself harbouring two Jews (25 May 44, Va; *CE* p. 598). It is necessary to appreciate the conformist nature of the Dutch and taking this into account it is quite conceivable that many people knew of the eight in hiding, even for an extended time, without reporting it to the authorities.

By January 1944 many Jews had obtained false identity cards and had come out of hiding (28 Jan 44 Va, omitted). The most likely reason the Franks did not emerge from Prinsengracht 263 themselves is because they looked too Jewish.

An 'achterhuis' is a common feature of many Amsterdam 'grachtenhuisen' (canal houses) and it is not unusual for the rear part of a house to be accessible via a single doorway. Prinsengracht 263 was sold during the Frank's occupancy and the buyer shown the building (27 Feb 43, Vb):

> *You'd never guess what has happened to us now! The owner of these premises has sold the house without informing* Kugler and Kleiman. *One morning the new owner came with an architect to* view *the house; luckily* Mr. Kleiman was present, he let the gentlemen see *everything up to our* little Achterhuis, *he professed to have forgotten the key of the communicating door. The new house-owner didn't question any further.*

This further points to complicity by the Dutch in the harbouring of Jews; the matter was not pursued – no questions were asked.

Once the consensus faltered however, one or several people reported them. It seems that by May 1944 many Dutch had come round to the Axis point of view, and this may account for their arrest ten weeks later (22 May 44, Va):

> *To our great regret and our* great *horror we have heard that the mood of many people towards us Jews has* been beaten round. *We have heard that anti-semitism has arrived in circles that had not thought of it before.*

This was precisely the time that AMF was starting work on her novel.

The eight were arrested on 4 August 1944 by an SS Oberscharführer and three Dutch Police helpers ('S.S. Oberscharführer Silberbauer met drie Nederlandse helpers van de Grune Polizei'; *Het Achterhuis*, Bakker, 1991, p. 299). Despite the major role of the two women, Hermine Gies and Elisabeth Voskuijl, in supporting the group in hiding, when the eight were discovered only the two men, Kleiman and Kugler, were taken into custody for harbouring them. Kleiman was released on 18 September 1944 because of his illness and Kugler escaped on 28 March 1945 during a march to Germany when his

Table 9. The Fate of the Eight

	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH	CAUSE
Annelies Marie Frank	Feb-Mar 1945	Bergen-Belsen	typhus
Margot Frank	Feb-Mar 1945	Bergen-Belsen	typhus
Mrs. Edith Frank-Holländer	6 Jan 1945	Auschwitz	starvation
Mr. Otto Heinrich Frank	20 Aug 1980	Basel	old age
Mr. Hermann van Pels	Oct-Nov 1944	Auschwitz	unknown
Mrs. August van Pels	unknown	Theresienstadt	unknown
Peter van Pels	5 May 1945	Mauthausen	unknown
Dr. Freidrich Pfeffer	20 Dec 1944	Neuengamme	unknown

convoy came under fire from British Spitfires.

On their arrest the eight were taken to the Westerbork transit camp in the north-east of Holland and a month later they were transferred to Auschwitz. There Otto Frank, his wife and Mr. van Pels remained but the other five were disseminated to other camps. Auguste van Pels was transferred (via Bergen-Belsen and Buchenwald) to Theresienstadt (Czechoslovakia), a 'model camp' with good conditions normally reserved for favoured German Jews; her son ended up in Mauthausen in Austria. Pfeffer was transferred to Neuengamme via either Buchenwald or Sachsenhausen. AMF and Margot were moved to Bergen-Belsen at the end of October 1944.

At the end of February or the beginning of March Margot Frank, followed a few days later by Anna, succumbed to an epidemic of typhus 'in which thousands of the inmates died' (*Het Achterhuis*, Bakker, p. 300) or which 'laid claim to tens of thousands of victims' (*CE* p. 54). The commentary in this 1991 edition of *Het Achterhuis* also indicates that their mother, Mrs. Edith Frank-Holländer, died in Auschwitz from hunger and exhaustion. Peter van Pels was part of the January evacuation march from Auschwitz to Mauthausen and died the following May on the very day the camp was liberated.

The only one of the group for whom any claim has been made of gassing is Mr. Hermann van Pels who, according to Netherlands Red Cross dossier 103586, was gassed immediately on his arrival at Auschwitz on 5-6 September 1944. According to the commentary in the 1991 edition of *Het Achterhuis* however Otto Frank reported that he was still alive some weeks after this date and the conclusion is that he died sometime in October or November. Red Cross documents are not accessible to the public and the information contained in NRC Dossier 103586 must have been taken from another, less reliable source.

Since there it is generally agreed that no 'gas chambers' existed at Bergen-Belsen, Mauthausen, Neuengamme or Theresienstadt, we can incontrovertibly conclude that none of the four remaining members of this group of eight were gassed. Many tens of thousands of camp internees died, especially in the winter and spring of 1945, during the unimaginable turmoil which prevailed in the closing stages of the war. The Allies, despite protests from the International Red Cross, had been continually bombarding the supply lines to the camps, exacerbating the

'The Russians entered Auschwitz in January 1945. By then the central camps and their numerous satellites numbered around 100 inside Germany, holding some 500,000 "Aryans" and 200,000 Jews' ***Encyclopaedia of World War II*****, Thomas Parrish (Ed.), p. 136**

already severe conditions which prevailed near the end of the war. Epidemics of typhus in the camps were common. The following passage (Gordon, 1948) gives an indication of conditions around that time:

> Germany in the spring months of April and May was an astounding sight, a mixture of humanity travelling this way and that, homeless, often hungry and carrying typhus with them....

Otto Frank was the only one of the eight to survive. When Russian forces arrived at Auschwitz on 27 January 1945 he was being treated for typhus in the camp hospital and he did not leave there until 5 March. Hospitalizing sick inmates, and moving Jews away from camps which were supposed to be mass killing centres, are not the actions of a regime bent on genocide. The sleeve notes of the *Critical Edition* state that the volume 'serves as an invaluable contribution to our awareness of the Holocaust' but the only claim of that sort derives from wartime BBC broadcasts.

'Goodness knows how many false identity cards are in circulation. Jewish acquaintances are going about under ordinary Christian names and there are certainly not many people in hiding like ourselves who have no identity cards and never go out. Bep's friend, who properly should really be in Berlin meets comrades of his in the street daily and they often know where each other is hiding. Three sons of our milkman are in the countryside etc. etc.' (28 Jan 44, Va, omitted)

Publication of the Book

This is the Gies/Gold account of how the *Diary* came to be published:

> [Otto Frank] had begun to have small gatherings of friends for coffee on Sundays. These were all Jews who had survived untold suffering...
>
> At one of these Sunday get-togethers Frank mentioned that he had a diary written by his daughter Anne. One of the men at the gathering asked Frank if he could read this diary. Frank was reluctant but gave the man some of the bits that he had translated for his mother in Basel, the sections that he'd been unsuccessfully trying for more than a year to get me to read.
>
> After he'd read the excerpts this man asked Frank if he might read the whole diary, that he was very impressed with the excerpts and had a great curiosity to read more. Again, with great reluctance, Mr. Frank gave him more to read.
>
> Then the man asked Frank for permission to show the diary to a friend of his, a well-known historian. Frank was against it, but his friend cajoled and cajoled, and finally Frank said yes.
>
> After he had read Anne's diary the historian wrote an article about it for *Het Parool*...

The man (whom, it seems, is studiously not named) was Werner Cahn. The 'historian' was Jan Romein. Another individual urging publication was Kurt Baschwitz who, according to Müller, was 'a professor specializing in advertising, public relations and mass psychology.'

Finding a publisher for *Het Achterhuis* after the war was difficult; everyone wanted to put the war behind them and there was no interest in wartime memoirs. Werner Cahn referred Otto Frank to a Dutchwoman Annie Romein who, with her husband Jan, were involved in 'the left-wing intellectual journal' *De Nieuwe Stem* ('The New Root'). Extracts of the typescripts appeared in *De Nieuwe Stem*. After Annie Romein had approached and been turned down by four publishers her husband wrote the newspaper article.

It appeared in *Het Parool* on 3 April 1946 and directly led to publication of *Het Achterhuis: Dagboekbrieven* (with a Foreword by Annie Romein) by Contact in 1947. It is noteworthy that the first sentence of the article is untrue, because it was not a matter of chance

Table 10. Chronology Surrounding Anna Frank's Novel

12 June 1929	Annelies Maria Frank born in Frankfurt, Germany
March 1934	AMF moves to Amsterdam
10 May 1940	German invasion of Holland
6 July 1942	Frank family go into hiding in Prinsengracht 263
16 Nov 1942	Pfeffer joins the group in hiding
4 Aug 1944	Eight in hiding arrested and sent to Westerbork
3 Sept 1944	Eight began their deportation to Auschwitz
5-6 Sept 1944	Eight arrived at Auschwitz
Oct 1944	AMF and Margot Frank moved to Bergen-Belsen
16 Jan 1945	Peter van Pels marched from Auschwitz to Mauthausen
27 Jan 1945	Russians entered Auschwitz; Otto Frank in hospital
5 Mar 1945	Otto Frank began journey back to Amsterdam
9 Apr 1945	Mrs. Auguste van Pels arrived at Theresienstadt
13-15 Apr 1945	Allies take over Belsen and Buchenwald
5 May 1945	Allies enter Mauthausen
3 June 1945	Otto Frank returned to Amsterdam
3 Apr 1946	*Het Parool* article by Jan Romein
1947	Publication of Typescript II as *Het Achterhuis: Dagboekbrieven*
1950	Publication of Typescript II as *Das Tagebuch der Anne Frank*, tr. Anneliese Schütz
1950	Publication of *Het Achterhuis* as *Le Journal de Anne Frank*
1951/2	Publication of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* in Britain and the US
1957	Anne Frank Stichting established in Amsterdam
1960	Prinsengracht 263 opened as a museum
1963	Anne Frank Fonds established in Basel
1991	New translation of *Das Tagebuch* by Mirjam Pressler

that he saw AMF's work. Otto Frank was lobbying for its publication.

> By chance a diary written during the war years has come into my possession. The Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation already holds some two hundred similar diaries, but I should be very much surprised if there was another as lucid, as intelligent, and at the same time as natural..
>
> Having arrived here at the age of four from Germany she was able within ten years to write enviably pure and simple Dutch...

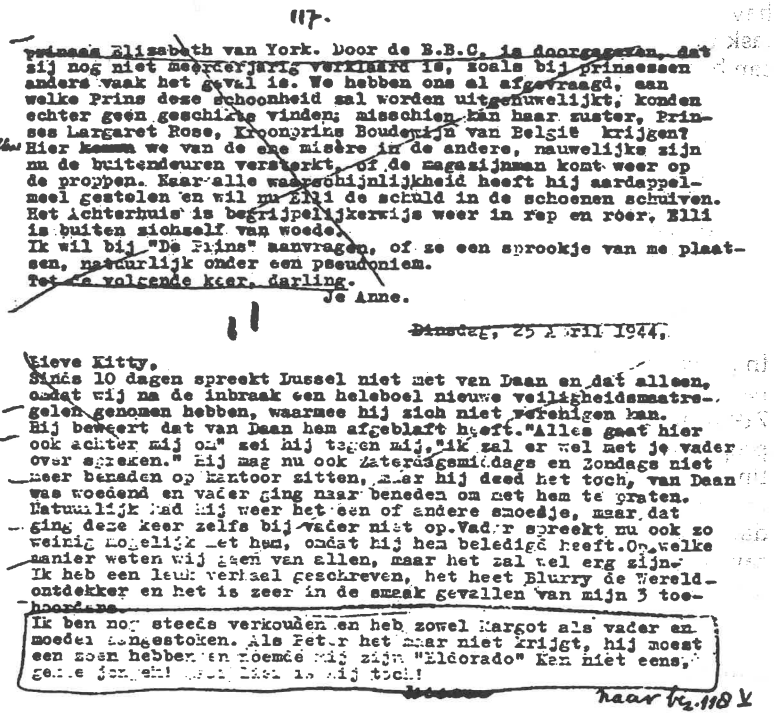
That the Dutch State Institute for War Documentation (RIOD) holds two hundred diaries in its archives (but presumably of greater authenticity) was confirmed. After several weeks studying the Dutch and English versions of the *Critical Edition*, and other material such as the Nuremberg Trial volumes in the RIOD library, it became known that I had found the Revisionist thesis to be consistent and on 23 January 1996 a senior librarian there told me 'You go out and you don't come back.' David Irving has also been banned from libraries for reaching the 'wrong' conclusions.

Jan Romein was the first of several commentators to remark on the fluency of the Dutch used by AMF, but who were unaware that they were viewing typescripts which had already been revised several times, during which numerous German expressions and mistakes had been removed.

Otto Frank's insistence that he did not intend to publish the manuscripts is not credible. Since this was an oft-repeated claim, and was apparently strenuously maintained, the evidence that he did in fact intend to publish shall be detailed.

1. Additions and Modifications to the Text by OHF. Table 11 gives an example of Otto Frank's revision of AMF's text. Further, the Version b entry for 30 October 1943 appears in the published *Diary* dated 7 November 1942 and this is one instance of date-changing which cannot be attributed to AMF; it was almost certainly the work of Otto Frank. It was Otto Frank who took four stories from the Account Book and made them into 'diary entries' (*CE* p. 63). Numerous other small changes to the text were made by him.

2. Preparation of Several Typescripts by OHF. Amplifications of the text by Otto Frank to the extent illustrated in Table 11 seem to be rare but the fact remains that an enormous effort was required to arrange AMF's jumble of writings into a readable form. No publisher would



117.

prinses Elisabeth van York. Door de B.B.C. is doorgegeven, dat zij nog niet meerderjarig verklaard is, zoals bij prinsessen anders vaak het geval is. We hebben ons al afgevraagd, aan welke Prins deze schoonheid zal worden uitgehuwelijkt, konden echter geen geschikte vinden; misschien kan haar zuster, Prinses Margaret Rose, Kroonprins Boudewijn van België krijgen? Hier kennen we van de ene misère in de andere, nauwelijks zijn nu de buitendeuren versterkt, of de magazijnman komt weer op de proppen. Naar alle waarschijnlijkheid heeft hij aardappelmeel gestolen en wil nu Elli de schuld in de schoenen schuiven. Het Achterhuis is begrijpelijkerwijs weer in rep en roer, Elli is buiten zichzelf van woede.
Ik wil bij "De Prins" aanvragen, of ze een sprookje van me plaatsen, natuurlijk onder een pseudoniem.
Tot de volgende keer, darling.
Je Anne.

Dinsdag, 25 April 1944.

Lieve Kitty.
Sinds 10 dagen spreekt Dussel niet met van Daan en dat alleen, omdat wij na de inbraak een heleboel nieuwe veiligheidsmaatregelen genomen hebben, waarmee hij zich niet verenigen kan. Hij beweert dat van Daan hem afgeblaft heeft."Alles gaat hier ook achter mij om" zei hij tegen mij,"ik zal er wel met je vader over spreken." Hij mag nu ook Zaterdagsmiddags en Zondags niet meer beneden op kantoor zitten, maar hij deed het toch, van Daan was woedend en vader ging naar beneden om met hem te praten. Natuurlijk had hij weer het een of andere smoesje, maar dat ging deze keer zelfs bij vader niet op.Vader spreekt nu ook zo weinig mogelijk met hem, omdat hij hem beledigd heeft.On welke manier weten wij geen van allen, maar het zal wel erg zijn.
Ik heb een leuk verhaal geschreven, het heet Blurry de Wereldontdekker en het is zeer in de smaak gevallen van mijn 3 toehoorders.
Ik ben nog steeds verkouden en heb zowel Margot als vader en moeder aangestoken. Als Peter het maar niet krijgt, hij moest een zoen hebben en noemde mij zijn "Eldorado" Kom niet eens, gemene jongen! Wat haat ik hem toch!

naar bl. 118 V

Donderdag, 27 April 1944.

Lieve Kitty,
Vanochtend had mevrouw een slecht humeur; niets dan klagen! Eerst over de verkoudheid, dat zij geen dropjes krijgt, dat veel neussnuiten niet om uit te houden is. Dan, dat de zon niet schijnt, dat de invasie niet komt, dat we niet uit het raam kunnen kijken enz.enz. Wij moesten vreselijk om haar lachen en het was nog niet zo erg of ze lachte mee.
Op het ogenblik lees ik:Keizer Karel V, door een hoogleraar van de Univereiteit te Göttingen geschreven; deze man heeft 40 jaar aan dit boek gewerkt. In 5 dagen las ik 50 bladzijden, meer is niet mogelijk. Het boek bevat 598 blz.,nu kun je uitrekenen hoe lang ik hierover zal doen en dan nog het tweede deel! Maar...h zeer interessant!
Waar een schoolmeisje in één dag al niet van hoort, neem mij nu eens. Eerst vertaalde ik van het Hollands in het Engels een stuk van Nelsons laatste slag. Daarna nam ik het vervolg van de Koorse oorlog door (1700-1721) , van Peter de Grote, Karel XII, Augustus de Sterke, Stanislaus Lescinsky, Mazeppa, van Görs, Brandenburg, Voor- Pommeren, Achter - Pommeren en Denemarken plus de gebruikelijke jaartallen.
Vervolgens belandde ik in Brazilië, las van de Bahia-tabak, de

Figure 3. A page of Typescript II. The handwritten annotation on the right reads 'naar blz. 118 V' ('to page 118 V')

have done it; it is the job of a ghost writer, who would undertake such a task for a famous but unliterary personality. The degree of that effort can be appreciated from this description of Typescript I (*CE* p. 63):

> On examining Typescript I, we see that it was indeed compiled from the loose sheets, supplemented with some items from the first version and some from the *Tales*. By far the largest number of pages are composed of pieces of paper pasted together; they contain passages from the second version, or – to a lesser extent – from the first. Clearly, Otto Frank typed out those items in the two versions he wanted to use, cut some out and then joined them up.

In preparing the early typescripts Otto Frank had been learning how to navigate AMF's material. This is no trivial task, as anyone seeing the 719-page *Critical Edition* will appreciate. Otto Frank's investment in preparing the four typescripts was virtually an act of authorship; the time and effort involved in arranging and editing AMF's jumble of manuscripts, with its disordered pages, pasted-in sections and changed dates is more than a skilful or natural writer (a journalist or novelist, say, who can write in one draft) would require to write a book from scratch.

A list of known typescripts is given in Table 12. By this stage the 'diary' had achieved the legitimacy of the typed word, carrying an authority which would have been completely absent if the text had been presented in its original form, particularly with the obviously immature passages in AMF's handprinting. One can imagine that had Otto Frank approached a publisher with his daughter's original manuscripts he would have been laughed out of the office.

3. Circulation of Typescripts by OHF. Otto Frank had already published the 'diary' by circulating typescripts 'for people who I

Table 11. Before and After (3)

6 July 44, Va by AMF	Typescript I, Modified by OHF
It's difficult to stand on one's own feet in life, but it's even more difficult to stand alone with character and soul and yet still remain constant.	*It's difficult for a type like Peter to stand on his own feet* in life, *but it's even harder to stand on one's own feet, as a conscious living being. Because if you do, it's twice as difficult to steer a right path through the sea of problems and yet remain constant.*

Table 12. Known Typescripts

Typescript 0	Translated into German by Otto Frank, sent to his mother and reported lost
Typescript I	Collated by Otto Frank, with four 'events' added from the Account Book
Typescript Ia	Unknown, editing remarks by various people
Typescript II	'Fair copy' typed by Isa Cauvern

believe would be interested in these notes, from which much that concerns our fate emerges' (court examination of Otto Frank in 1959, *CE* p. 64).

4. Approaches to Publishers by OHF. Typescripts submitted by Otto Frank were rejected by Em. Querido's Uitgeverij in Amsterdam and Fischer Verlag in Germany. Ten English-language publishers were later to reject it also.

5. Approach to Annie Romein by OHF. Otto Frank went to see Annie Romein with a typescript and, according to Jan Romein, asked her to help him find a publisher.

Faurisson reports that Annie Romein was later to remark 'I was not at all suspicious enough.' His source is probably *Der Spiegel*, 1 April 1959, pp. 51-55.

Shortly after typing Typescript II, in June 1946, Isa Cauvern committed suicide by jumping out of a window.

'When I write about mother or Mrs. v.P. I shan't just repeat their original words but write them in proper Dutch' (2 Sept 42, Vb)

Versions, Editions, Translations

In 1950 *Le Journal de Anne Frank* and *Das Tagebuch der Anne Frank* were published and in 1952 it appeared in Britain and America as *The Diary of a Young Girl.* The epilogue of the 1952 US edition states that 'Apart from a very few passages, which are of little interest to the reader, the original text has been printed.' This is not just untrue but risibly so. More than half of AMF's material was not used. Moreover we now see that the entire character of the book is distorted.

The many inconsistencies between the different language editions are due to translation, selective editing and variations of source; for example the German translation was made from Typescript II while the French edition was translated from *Het Achterhuis,* which had been further edited by Contact. The translators of the *Diary*, apparently all women, catching on to the character of the book, have had a field day. One of the German translators (the first, Anneliese Schütz, did not strike the right 'tone') used a mention of peas as an excuse to disparage Mendelian genetics (11 July 42) while the English translator added 'The Germans have a means of making people talk' (22 May 44). Table 13 gives a selection from the English reference *Diaries*.

The English translations of all the Frank writings are complaisant. For example, the *Diary's* original title, *Het Achterhuis,* is literally 'The Behind-house' or 'The Rear Annexe' but this is now translated as 'The Secret Annexe' ('Het Geheim Achterhuis'). The statement in the *Critical Edition* (p. 578) that 'secret annexe' is the closest English translation to 'achterhuis' is untrue. Complaisant translations were reproduced in the *Critical* Edition for those portions which appeared in the *Diary*. When AMF wrote in the entry of 29 March 1944 that she is thinking of producing a novel ('een roman') this is incorrectly translated as 'a romance' and this is repeated even in the so-called *Critical Edition*. One instance of this word is correctly translated in the English *Definitive Edition* (1997) however.

In the forms of address in this text, 'Beste' is translated to 'Dear' (as in 'Good Sir'), 'Lieve' (the most common form) is rendered as 'Sweet' and 'Schat' goes to 'Darling.' Here the translations are close to literal, reproducing errors present in the original, and are certainly more accurate than orthodox sources.

THIS IS A TRUE STORY. ONLY THE WORDS HAVE BEEN CHANGED

Table 13. Some Omissions and Translations

Strict translation from the original Dutch, from the *Dagboeken*, 1986	*Diary of Anne Frank*, US, 1952; *Anne Frank's Diary*, UK, 1958	US-English *Critical Edition*, 1989	*The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*, UK, 1997
20 JUNE 42 (Vb)		**(Vb)**	
To now further raise the idea of the long-awaited friend in my fantasy I don't want to place facts in the diary just so ordinarily as anyone else, but I want this diary, itself to be my friend and this friend's called Kitty.	*In order to enhance in my mind's eye the picture of the friend for whom I have waited so long I don't want to set down a series of bald facts in a diary like most people do, but I want this diary itself to be my friend, and I shall call my friend Kitty.*	In order to enhance in my mind's eye the picture of the friend for whom I have waited so long I don't want to set down a series of bald facts in a diary like most people do, but I want this diary, itself to be my friend, and I shall call my friend Kitty.	To enhance the image of this long-awaited friend in my imagination, I don't want to jot down the facts in this diary the way most people would do, but I want the diary to be my friend, and I'm going to call this friend *Kitty*.
7 AUG 43 (Vb)		**(Vb)**	
An interruption in the Achterhuis-sketches.	omitted	An interruption in my sketches of life in the 'Secret Annexe.'	omitted
28 JAN 44 (Vb)		**(Vb)**	
. . . whatever blunders they also may hit or whatever untruths and fabrications they cooked up.	*...however many blunders they make, and to whatever extent they allow their imaginations to run away with them.*	...however many blunders they make and to whatever extent their imaginations run away with them.	...no matter how many blunders they make or how often they let their imaginations run away with them.
29 MAR 44 (Va+Vb)		**(Va+Vb)**	
Just imagine how interesting it would be, if I were to publish a novel of the Achterhuis	*Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a romance of the 'Secret Annexe'*	Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a romance of the 'Secret Annexe'	Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a novel about the Secret Annexe

Factors in the Construction of the Fraud

After a thorough, critical study of the *Diary*, one is struck above all by the extraordinary slipperyness of it. It is reminiscent of a bed-bug, which sneaks out to bite its victim at precisely their most vulnerable moment and place and slithers back evading capture before they are fully awake. The most vulnerable moment was the wake of a catastrophic world war, after which the enemy continued to be ruthlessly persecuted; the most vulnerable point is adolescent females.

One cannot say that the *Diary* is an outright hoax but at every stage of its production creeping distortion and insidious untruth has been introduced. The dishonesty is of a nature which defies description in a few words and many hours of patient study were spent getting to the bottom of it.

The following may sound facile but it evidently needs expressing. War is not nice; it is the most austere of games and usually results in the violent death, injury, imprisonment and exodus of large numbers of people. How then, with a WWII death-toll of 40-50 million, have the writings of Annelies Marie Frank claimed so much attention? The following is a list of factors in the mendacious construction of the *Diary* and reasons why it has become so popular, despite its fraudulent nature. Obvious comparisons can be made between the *Diary* and a certain other matter, detailed by Butz.

1. Revision of the text;
2. Highly selective editing of the text;
3. Misrepresentation of its nature by journalists;
4. Disproportionate attention being given to one 'diary' of dubious provenance while two hundred others are ignored;
5. Complaisant and dishonest translations;
6. Restricting access to the original manuscripts;
7. Rendering itself immune from criticism by raising the cost of censure with accusations of 'anti-Semitism';
8 Exploiting sentimentality and by this means hindering objective, critical analysis.

'Mevrouw will certainly have to part with her fur coat'
(17 Oct 43, Vb; 29 Oct 43, Vb)

Anna and Otto Frank's Legacy

Otto Frank bought Prinsengracht 263 in 1953. In 1954 it was sold to a broker, who sold it to a clothing company. Then, incredibly, it was donated back! (*CE* p. 56). Also in that year, 1957, OHF established the Anne Frank Stichting in Amsterdam which now administers the building. Similarly in 1963 the Anne Frank Fonds in Basel was set up and this foundation, headed by Bernd Elias (Otto Frank's nephew), inherited the copyrights to the Anne Frank material. The organization masquerades as a charitable institution and is believed to be worth around $20 million (Müller p. 278).

After his return to Amsterdam in 1945 OHF lived rent-free at Jan and Miep Gies' small apartment for seven years, yet when the couple later visited him in Switzerland they had to stay in a hotel, paid from their own pocket. They were not invited to stay at the large house in which OHF, by this time made a millionaire by the *Diary*, now lived. Miep Gies had been the most active supporter of the eight in hiding and also saved AMF's writings from destruction, storing and presenting them to OHF when she learned that his daughter would not be returning. OHF promised Gies that her son would receive a 'significant' bequest, but when it came the amount was $5,000. Elisabeth Voskuijl received an identical amount. In contrast, OHF's closest relatives, who are also beneficiaries of the Fonds, received Swiss franc six figure sums.

Het Parool gave the *Diary* its initial launch by printing the article by Jan Romein but still the newspaper was sued by the Fonds in 1998 for copyright infringement after reproducing parts of Cor Suijk's five extra pages. At precisely the same time, the Dutch Anne Frank Stitching and the Swiss Anne Frank Fonds were jointly suing, in an Amsterdam court, the Belgian Seigreid Verbeke and the Frenchman Robert Faurisson for distributing texts critical of the *Diary*. That the court had no jurisdiction in Belgium or France seems to have been overlooked. The case was ignored by the Dutch newspapers, although all carried reports on the extra pages which Suijk had been sitting on for years and for which he obtained $300,000 from the Dutch government for his ongoing 'Holocaust' crusade. Another, separate payment may have been made to the Anne Frank Fonds for copyright.

The Anne Frank House is the most popular tourist attraction in Amsterdam. It is open 362 days per year, receiving 600,000 paying visitors annually, and routinely has long queues of tourists waiting to

go in. During the holiday months it achieves the astonishing throughput of over 300 tourists hourly. Half of the revenue obtained is sent to Switzerland while the remainder is used by the Anne Frank Stichting for its activities. Because of the number of visitors the staff have even considered moving to 'more appropriate' premises.

The Anne Frank Stichting 'produces lesson material on the Second World War as it relates to today, the multi-ethnic society and anti-racism' and 'organizes courses and training sessions aimed at the creation of equal opportunities for ethnic minorities.' Despite its enormous income the leaflet which guides visitors around Prinsengracht 263 still finishes with an invitation for donations: 'Gifts are of essential importance... your support is more than welcome.' The Foundation has not escaped local criticism and this may be due in part to the Dutch edition of the *Diary* being the closest to the original text. Reports have also appeared of rifts between the Anne Frank Stichting and the parent Fonds in Basel.

The *Diary* has been enormously influential, especially with children and adolescents. In 2010 the American PBS reported that more than 40 million copies had been sold and it is still one of the most frequently loaned books from public libraries. Actually, the *Diary* did not become a bestseller until 1955 when a play was produced on the theme. Its popularity closely coincides with the rise of 'Holocaust' literature; both were practically unknown until around 1960, fifteen years after the events they purport to represent.

What is the probable effect of millions of adolescent girls tearfully reading the *Diary* at their most impressionable age? One readily foreseeable result is that any young male who questions its historical relevance, gushing sentimentality or veracity is shunned by the females in whom he is, at this age, highly interested. If, as seems likely, this conditioning of immature females persists to adulthood, the consequence will be that males who appear unsympathetic to the Frank sob story are deprived of progeny. The evolutionary implications are obvious: the trend would be to alter a population, making them more susceptible to emotional manipulation. There is only one word to describe the deceitful 'aanleggen' of the *Diary* and its design of moulding people for the purpose of being better milked, and that word is *evil*.

'From the ardour of the male throughout the animal kingdom, he is generally willing to accept any female; and it is the female which usually exerts a choice' Darwin, *The Descent of Man* p. 491

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The following passage at the beginning of the *Diary* (20 June 1942) exemplifies its true nature:

> **'It's an odd idea for someone like me, to keep a diary; not only because I have never done so before, but because it seems to me that neither I – nor for that matter anyone else – will be interested in the unbosomings of a thirteen year-old schoolgirl'**

– because it was actually written within a few days of 20 May 1944. Annelies Maria Frank was almost 15 by this time. She was to spend the next two months writing her novel, *Het Achterhuis*.

The Heretical Press